

ROYAL HIPPODROME BELFAST

27th OCTOBER—1st NOVEMBER, 1947

HOSPITALS' GRAND OPERA WEEK

IN AID OF

The Ulster Hospital
for Children and Women

The Mater
Infirmorum Hospital

The Young Philanthropists

PRESENT

THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY

IN

CARMEN

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MADAME BUTTERFLY

GIACOMO PUCCINI

AIDA

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LA TRAVIATA

GIUSEPPI VERDI

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THE YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS are privileged once again to present the DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY. We join with our many friends in extending a very hearty welcome to the Society whose reputation stands on a high pinnacle throughout the land.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to the CHAIRMAN (Comdt. W. O'Kelly) and the Committee of the Dublin Grand Opera Society for their ready response to our invitation, and the whole-hearted manner in which they have arranged for their talented company to provide such worthy presentations of world-renowned operas.

We welcome our many distinguished GUEST ARTISTES, most of whom are well-known to the music-loving people of Belfast, and we feel confident that our efforts to provide only the best—in keeping with the artistic temperament of our people—will meet with the approval of all.

We take this opportunity of thanking our ADVERTISERS whose response to our appeal made this Programme possible.

We thank MR. G. L. BIRCH, of the Royal Hippodrome, for his guidance in staging this great venture.

To our Patrons—we say THANKS! You have made this Week a wonderful success by the support which you have given. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the Performances, and know you join us in the happy thought that the ULSTER HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN and THE MATER INFIRMORUM HOSPITAL will benefit considerably.

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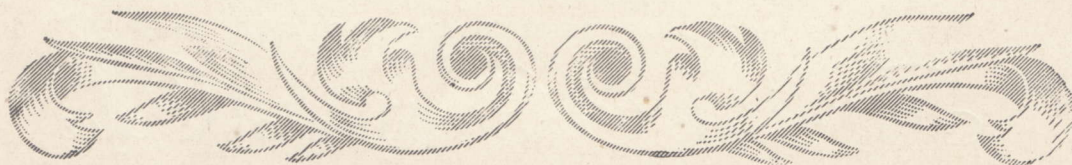
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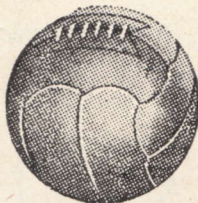
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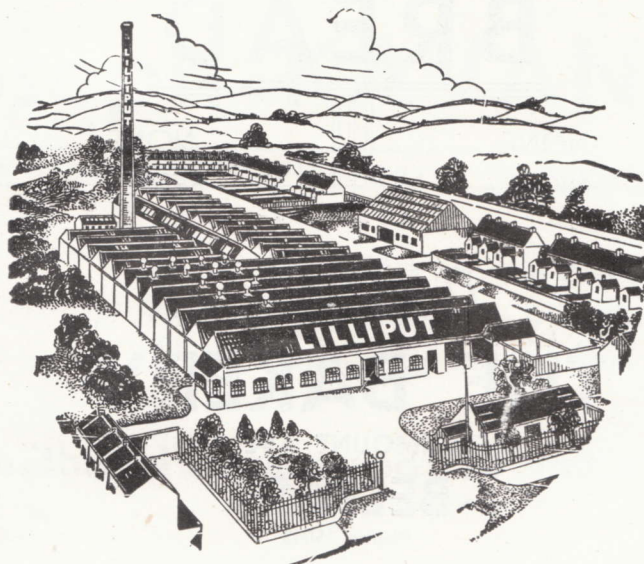
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Madame Butterfly

(PUCCINI)

(By arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co.)

BUTTERFLY is a little geisha who is loved by Lieutenant Pinkerton of the American Navy. She returns his love and they decide to get married. But Sharpless, the American Consul at Nagasaki, realises the earnestness of Butterfly's affections, as she is going to renounce her religion, and marry Pinkerton as a Christian. He warns Pinkerton against betraying the trust of the simple and charming little Japanese girl, but Pinkerton loves her too dearly to think of the future. After their marriage ceremony an unhappy jarring note is struck by the arrival of Butterfly's uncle, the Bonze or Japanese priest, who denounces her for the abandonment of her faith. But even though the Bonze persuades all the geisha's friends to leave her in horror, she is comforted by her handsome lieutenant.

The second act is supposed to be three years later. Pinkerton has been recalled to America, but Butterfly is secure in the knowledge that he has promised to return when "the robins nest." She awaits him patiently, but not so her maid, Suzuki, who does not believe in Pinkerton's constancy. Butterfly has even refused the hand of Prince Yamadori, because she is a Christian wife who must await her husband. Sharpless, the Consul, who has been watching her with sympathy and compassion, tries to persuade her to marry the Prince, because a letter has arrived from Pinkerton telling of his marriage to an American girl. Butterfly does not comprehend his news, however, because she is so overjoyed at the sight of a letter from her adored husband. Her faith and pride are so great that she even attempts to stab the marriage broker, Goro, who spreads the report that the father of her son is not known. But she spurns him, knowing that soon Pinkerton will appear and disprove of the calumny.

Soon cannon shots are heard in the bay, and Butterfly discovered that it is Pinkerton's ship returned at last. She and Suzuki happily spread flowers all over the house in honour of his home-coming; and then they await with her small son behind a partition in which they have many holes that they can keep a watch on the hill. They wait until nightfall, but still he does not come. The maid and the child fall asleep, leaving Butterfly a solitary pathetic figure standing at the partition waiting alone.

The curtain rises on the last Act, and Butterfly is still watching. Suzuki wakes, and seeing that it is already morning she begs her mistress to try and get a little sleep. So, taking her child in her arms, Butterfly wearily retires. She has barely gone than Pinkerton and his wife and Sharpless appear; they have come to persuade Butterfly to give up her child to the care of Mrs. Pinkerton. Pinkerton has by now realised Butterfly's great faith in him and goes, for he cannot bear the thought of her unhappiness. Then Butterfly enters, hoping to find him, but is informed instead that the strange lady waiting there is Pinkerton's wife, who wishes to take the child from her. With quite dignity Butterfly says that Pinkerton must return himself in half-an-hour's time and the boy will be ready. Pinkerton does so, only to find that while his son awaits him in the garden, his once-beloved little geisha has killed herself and lies dead in the flower strewn room, while next to her lies her father's sword bearing the inscription: "He dies in honour who no longer lives in honour."

HOSPITALS' GRAND OPERA BALL

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Madame Butterfly

(GIACOMO PUCCINI)

(By arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co.)

Dramatis Personæ

CHO-CHO-SAN, <i>Madame Butterfly</i>	VICTORIA SLADEN
SUZUKI, <i>Cho-Cho-San's Servant</i>	PATRICIA BLACK
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First produced in English : Moody Manners Opera Company, Lyric Theatre, London
August 16th, 1907

Libretto by Luigi Illica and G. Giocosa

Madame Butterfly

Synopsis of Scenery

ACT I.

A Japanese house, terrace and garden in Nagasaki

ACT II.

First part—Inside Butterfly's house

Second part—Same

At Nagasaki : Present Day

Musical Director, COMMANDANT J. M. DOYLE *Leader of Orchestra*, TERRY O'CONNOR

Stage Director, SYDNEY RUSSELL *Choreographer*, MURIEL CUFFE, Abbey School of Ballet

Chorus Mistress, JEANNIE REDDIN *Wigs by* DRAGO, St. Stephen's Green

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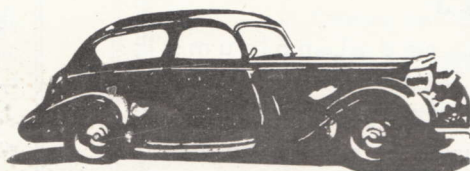
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